



# *Sharing the Blessings of Christmas!*

Dear Friends in Christ,

We rejoice with family and friends around the world in celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and to recognize the gift of life that He brings to the World. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall have everlasting life..." John 3:16. Indeed He is the Reason for the Season.

We take time to reflect on what God has done through His Church in responding to and meeting needs across Africa. We also celebrate partnerships that we have forged with friends of Africa who have made it possible for us to realize some of our goals and desires to transform communities across our great continent.

We are thankful for the blessings of family. Our children are doing well. Nomsa, our daughter is doing pharmaceutical studies in Swaziland and Daniel is a sophomore at Point Loma. Panashe just finished Grade 7 and we are hoping for him to get into a good school this coming year. God had been good to us.



The year 2014 has been one mired with great challenges. Fresh in our minds is the EBOLA epidemic that has seen thousands of people die in several countries of West Africa. We are so grateful to the Global Church's response to this epidemic that saw a number of initiatives being put together to minister to those affected in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone.







Cape Verde Islands also experienced a volcanic eruption that saw many people displaced and homes and infrastructure destroyed. We continue to pray for those affected in this situation.

HIV and AIDS continues to be the biggest challenge on the Africa Region. Many lives are still being lost to this pandemic. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries in partnership with other organizations continues to create ways to minister to those affected and infected. Some of the initiatives include the care of orphans and widows through various initiatives. Our Child Development programmes serve as key centres where affected children are ministered to. We thank God for all the Sponsors who give towards this important ministry.

Our agricultural projects and gardens continue to provide for the families affected by way of nutrition and in some cases extra money to help meet other needs.

Water, for most parts of Africa, is a scarce commodity and many communities struggle to access clean water for domestic use. The need to provide wells continue to grow. We thank God for the support we receive from our friends in helping us provide wells and good sanitation in these communities. The need for wells is daunting and we continue to pray for support for this much needed resource.

Other highlights in 2014 include growing partnerships with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada. Their support for our programmes in Malawi has seen the establishment of 6 Child Development Centres, provision of water wells, as well as funding conservation farming programmes in that country.





Gender Based Violence and Human Trafficking issues are becoming more and more visible as awareness campaigns spread across Africa. We praise God for rescued victims who are now being rehabilitated in a number of programmes on the Africa Region.

Our partnership with Intel Corporation continued in 2014 with Mayewane Nazarene Primary School receiving 25 Classmate Laptops and two 2 teacher's laptops for their computer literacy programme. We are looking forward to continued support in the coming years.

One of our highlights in 2014 was the visit by the Japan NCM team to explore partnership opportunities with NCM Africa. Great plans were drawn and we are hoping that opportunities will open up for support of the many programmes that we have on the Africa Region.

Sponsorship for children, both pastor's kids and Child Development is one of our key deliverables on the Africa Region. Child Development Ministries continue to grow across Africa and new centres are being started as more and more children who need help come to our attention. We continue to appeal for more and more sponsors to reach out in support for this important ministry.

I would like to thank our partners who have carried us through this challenging year. Notable of these are Bethany First Church, Food Resource Bank, the 30 Hour Famine Programme support, Canadian Food Resource Bank, Star Fish Fund, NCM Canada, Helping Hands Germany, Holland Sponsorship (KAP), and a host of many individual sponsors who had been a blessing to us.





As we celebrate Christmas this season, let's spare a moment to pray for the many orphans across the Africa Region who desperately need help due to disease, famine, violence, unrest and chronic water shortages. Let's pray for the thousands displaced due to conflict and droughts and in some places war. Also pray for the EBOLA situation in West Africa that a solution be found soon.

Our goals for this coming year include:

- More sponsorship for our Child Development programmes
- Support and care for those affected by HIV / AIDS
- Support and care for the EBOLA victims in West Africa
- Creation of more partnerships for NCM Africa
- Raising funds for water wells
- Support for the Work of the Mutowa family as we serve on Africa Region

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to partnering with you again in this coming year.

Many thanks to the NCM Team for their hard work this year. We could not have achieved the work done without their commitment to serving the poor and disadvantaged.

My Family and I would like to wish you a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with His blessings and mercies.

Sincerely,

*Cosmos Mutowa*

Rev. Cosmos Mutowa  
Nazarene Compassionate Ministries  
Regional Coordinator  
Africa Region

